

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### WRITTEN QUESTION

Mr Guyula to the Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention:

#### Remote Mental Health Resources

1. What resources are provided in the 2022/23 budget for culturally appropriate and accessible mental health and suicide support based in remote Aboriginal communities in North East Arnhem Land?

A variety of services are provided to remote Aboriginal communities in North East Arnhem Land often integrating alcohol and other drug (AOD) services with mental health and suicide prevention due to prevalent dual diagnosis. The main service channels are:

- **Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation** provides a range of mental health, AOD and Emotional and Social Wellbeing services funded primarily through the Australian Government, although NT Health contributes substantially to both general primary health care and allied services (approximately 14% of total funding.)
- **East Arnhem Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs Service** (NT Health) which provides specialist mental health, alcohol and other drugs assessment, intervention and care planning to support and co-ordinate local mental health and alcohol and other drugs service provision in the region. This includes:
  - Specialist mental health, AOD assessment, intervention and care planning to support and co-ordinate local mental health and AOD service provision
  - Consultation Liaison service to the Gove District Hospital, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations clinics and remote primary health care clinics
  - Case management of all clients in the East Arnhem region, who have a current mental health 'case'.
- Initial tertiary mental health services through the **Gove District Hospital** (patients will generally be transferred to inpatient care at Royal Darwin and Palmerston Hospital).
- **Non-government organisations** (NGO) funded through different agencies. NT Health (through the Mental Health and AOD Branch) funds four programs within East Arnhem Regional Council and Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation and two suicide prevention projects.

Current NT wide investments in suicide prevention total \$1.925 million and cover:

- NT-wide Community small grants and evidence based suicide prevention activities; and
- Training workshops; including Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training and SafeTalk, which are focused on the provision of training and education of the signs, symptoms and promotion of awareness of suicide and suicidal behaviors. This training is provided in remote East Arnhem communities.

Further NT-Wide investment includes \$385,000 for the In-language resources and campaign project for the development and distribution of a suite of NT Indigenous language suicide prevention resources across eight regional agencies and approximately 15 languages. In East Arnhem the Aboriginal Resource Development Service is funded \$48,000 to undertake this project.

Development of a Community Youth Services Integration Workers program with East Arnhem Regional Council (EARC) is underway. This will support young people through their ‘treatment’ journey and connect to appropriate place-based support; support family and community involvement and referral into Youth ‘Strength and Healing’ Service/Facility (and/or existing AOD services within NT Health and Miwatj) if and when necessary. EARC has several youth-based programs with a reach across East Arnhem, including sport and recreation and youth diversion. This will integrate the outreach element of their existing work to provide a proactive comprehensive service to young people at an earlier intervention point.

Additionally, there is the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Bilateral Agreements process, where new Commonwealth funding arrangements are delivering further investments in NT Health Care. These have potential implications for all remote communities across the whole NT and include additional initiatives expected to that will benefit the NT and East Arnhem.

2. What resources are provided in the 2022/23 budget for mental health resources in Nhulunbuy?

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation	Majority Australian Government see <a href="#">BJ2402_Miwatj-2020-21-AR_WEB.pdf</a>	Breakdown not publically available
East Arnhem Mental Health and AOD Service	NT Health	\$2,570,947 An additional \$406,000 is provided directly to Miwatj
Gove District Hospital	NT Health	Uncapped services
Non-government organisations	NT Health (MHAOD and Suicide Prevention)	\$1,236,800

3. For questions 1 and 2, is this an increase or decrease in funding from the last budget? Please provide the funding amount for each question from the 2021/22 budget.

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Funding change</b>
Miwatj Health Aboriginal Corporation	Principally Australian Government see <a href="#">BJ2402_Miwatj-2020-21-AR_WEB.pdf</a>	Not available
East Arnhem Mental Health and AOD Service	NT Health	No change
Gove District Hospital	NT Health	No change
Non-government organisations	NT Health (MHAOD and Suicide Prevention)	+\$10,000 plus Community Youth Services Integration Workers (under negotiation)